portion. All sequences were sequence-verified using standard techniques. The coding sequence of IL-13Rα1.IL-4Rα.Fc was then subcloned into the expression vector pCDNA3.1 (Stratagene) using standard molecular biology techniques.

REMARKS

This amendment is being made merely to conform the specification to the formal drawings that are being submitted herewith and to insert sequence identifiers. The drawing changes and amendment are needed in order to comply with the rules regarding drawings containing multiple views. Applicants submit herewith as Exhibit B: Marked-Up Versions of pages 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 42, 49, 50, 51, 53, 55, 56, 62, 63, and 64.

Applicants contend that no new matter is introduced by these Amendments and, therefore, respectfully request entry of the Amendments.

Applicants submit herewith as Exhibit C: copy of the Transmittal of Sequence Listing (without exhibits) which is being submitted concurrently.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with this submission. However, if any fee is deemed necessary, authorization is hereby given to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 18-0650.

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binding first the optional α component, followed by binding to β1, and then β2. The β components for many cytokine receptors interact through membrane proximal regions (shaded boxes) with the Jak/Tyk family of cytoplasmic protein tyrosine kinases. Only upon dimerization of β components is signal transduction initiated, as schematized by the tyrosine phosphorylations (P) of the β components and the Jak/Tyk kinases.

FIGURE 2: CNTF inhibits IL-6 responses in a PC12 cell line (called PC12D) that expresses IL6Rα, gp130, CNTFRα, but not LIFRβ. Serum-deprived PC12D cells were incubated + IL-6 (50 ng/mL) in the presence or absence of CNTF as indicated. Some plates also received soluble IL6Rα (1 mg/mL) or soluble CNTFRα (1 mg/mL) as indicated. Cell lysates were subjected to immunoprecipitation with anti-gp130 and immunoblotted with anti-phosphotyrosine. Tyrosine phosphorylation of gp130 is indicative of IL-6 induced activation of the IL-6 receptor system, which is blocked upon coaddition of CNTF.

FIGURE 3: Scatchard analysis of iodinated CNTF binding on PC12D cells. PC12D cells were incubated with various concentrations of iodinated CNTF in the presence or absence of excess non-radioactive competitor to determine the specific binding. The figure shows a Scatchard plot of the amount of iodinated CNTF specifically bound, and gives data consistent with two binding sites with dissociation constants of 9 pM and 3.4 nM.

FIGURE 4. The amino acid sequence of human gp130-Fc-His_6. Amino acids 1 to 619 are from human gp130 (Hibi et al., Cell 63:1149-1157 (1990). Note that amino acid number 2 has been changed from a Leu to a Val in order to accommodate a Kozak sequence in the coding DNA sequence. The signal peptide of gp130-Fc-His_6 has been italicized (amino acids 1 to 22). The Ser-Gly bridge is shown in bold type (amino acids 620, 621). Amino acids 662 to 853 are from the Fc domain of human IgG1 (Lewis, et

al., J. Immunol. 151:2829-2838 (1993). (†) mark the two cysteines (amino acids number 632 and 635) of the IgG hinge preceding the Fc that form the inter-chain disulfide bridges that link two Fc domains. The hexahistine tag is shown in bold/italic type (amino acids 854 to 859). (•) shows the position of the STOP codon.

FIGURE 5: The amino acid sequence of human IL-6Rα-Fc. Key: Amino acids 1 to 358 are from human IL-6Rα (Yamasaki, et al., Science 241:825-828 (1988). Note that amino acid number 2 has been changed from a Leu to a Val in order to accommodate a Kozak sequence in the coding DNA sequence. The signal peptide of IL-6Rα-Fc has been italicized (amino acids 1 to 19). The Ala-Gly bridge is shown in bold type (amino acids 359, 360). Amino acids 361 to 592 are from the Fc domain of human IgG1 (Lewis et al., J. Immunol. 151:2829-2838 (1993). (†) mark the two cysteines (amino acids number 371 and 374) of the IgG hinge preceding the Fc that form the inter-chain disulfide bridges that link two Fc domains. (•) shows the position of the STOP codon.

FIGURE 6: The CNTF/IL-6/IL-11 receptor system. The ordered formation of the hexameric signal transducing receptor complex is depicted schematically. The cytokine associates with the Rα component to form an obligatory cytokine•Rα complex (Kd is about 5 nM). This low affinity complex next associates with the first signal transducing component, marked β1, to form a high affinity cytokine•Rα•β1 complex (Kd is about 10 pM). In the case of IL-6Rα, this component is gp130. This trimeric high affinity complex subsequently associates with another such complex. Formation of this complex results in signal transduction as it involves dimerization of two signal transducing components, marked β1 and β2 respectively (adapted from (Ward et al., J. Bio. Chem. 269:23286-23289 (1994); Stahl and Yancopoulos, J. Neurobiology 25:1454-1466 (1994); Stahl and Yancopoulos, Cell 74:587-590 (1993).

MARKED-UP VERSION

FIGURE 7: Design of heterodimeric receptor-based ligand traps for IL-6. The heterodimeric ligand trap is comprised of two interdisulfide linked proteins, gp130-Fc and IL-6Rα-Fc. The gp130-Fc•IL-6Rα-Fc complex (upper panel) is shown to mimic the high affinity cytokine•Rα•β1 complex (lower panel). The ligand trap functions as an antagonist by sequestering IL-6 and thus rendering unavailable to interact with the native receptors on IL-6-responsive cells.

FIGURE 8. Heteromeric immunoglobulin Heavy/Light Chain Receptor Fusions. An example of a heavy/light chain receptor fusion molecule is schematically depicted. The extracellular domain of gp130 is fused to Cγ, whereas the extracellular domain of IL-6Rα is fused to the constant region of the kappa chain (κ). The inter-chain disulfide bridges are also depicted (S-S).

FIGURE 9. Amino acid sequence of gp130-Cγ1. Key: Amino acids 1 to 619 are from human gp130 (Hibi, et al., Cell 63:1149-1157 (1990). Ser-Gly bridge is shown in bold type. Amino acids 662 to 651 are from the constant region of human IgG1 (Lewis et al., J. Immunol. 151:2829-2838 (1993). (*) shows the position of the STOP codon.

FIGURE 10: Amino acid sequence of gp130Δ3fibro. Key: Amino acids 1 to 330 are from human gp130 (Hibi et al., Cell 63:1149-1157 (1990). Other symbols as described in Figure 9.

FIGURE 11: Amino acid sequence of J-CH1. Key: The Ser-Gly bridge is shown in bold, the J-peptide is shown in italics, the C_H1 domain is underlined.

FIGURE 12: Amino acid sequence of Cγ4. Key: The Ser-Gly bridge is shown in bold type. Amino acids 2 to 239 comprise the Cγ4 sequence.

FIGURE 13: Amino acid sequence of κ-domain. Key: The Ser-Gly bridge is shown in bold type. Amino acids 2 to 108 comprise the κ domain. The C-terminal cysteine (amino acid 108) is that involved in the disulfide bond of the κ domain with the C_H1 domain of Cγ.

FIGURE 14: Amino acid sequence of λ-domain. Key: The Ser-Gly bridge is shown in bold type. Amino acids 2 to 106 comprise the λ domain (Cheung, et al., J. Virol. 66: 6714-6720 (1992). The C-terminal cysteine (amino acid 106) is that involved in the disulfide bond of the λ domain with the C_H1 domain of Cγ.

FIGURE 15: Amino acid sequence of the soluble IL-6Rα domain. Key: Amino acids 1 to 358 comprise the soluble IL-6Rα domain (Yamasaki, et al., Science 241:825-828 (1988). The Ala-Gly bridge is shown in bold type.

FIGURE 16: Amino acid sequence of the soluble IL-6Rα313 domain: Key: Amino acids 1 to 313 comprise the truncated IL-6Rα domain (IL-6Rα313). The Thr-Gly bridge is shown in bold type.

FIGURE 17: Purification of gp130-Cγ1•IL-6Rα-κ. 4% to 12% SDS-PAGE gradient gel run under non-reducing conditions. Proteins were visualized by staining with silver. Lane 1: approximately 100 ng of material purified over Protein A Sepharose (Pharmacia). Lane 2: Molecular size standards (Amersham). Lane 3: The Protein A-purified material shown here after further purification over an IL-6 affinity chromatography step. The positions of the gp130-Cγ1 dimer [(gp130-Cγ1)2], the gp130-Cγ1 dimer

associated with one IL-6Rα-κ [(gp130-Cγ1)$_2$•(IL-6Rα-κ)$_1$], and the gp130-Cγ1 dimer associated with two IL-6Rα-κ [(gp130-Cγ1)$_2$•(IL-6Rα-κ)$_2$] are shown, as well as the sizes for the molecular size standards in kilodaltons (200, 100, and 46).

FIGURE 18: IL-6 dissociates slowly from the ligand trap. The dissociation rate of IL-6 from a heavy/light chain receptor-based ligand trap (gp130-Cγ1•IL-6Rα-κ) was compared to that obtained with the neutralizing monoclonal antibody B-E8 (BE8 MAb).

FIGURE 19: IL-6 can induce multimerization of the ligand trap. (A) Two different ligand traps are depicted schematically and listed according to their ability to bind protein A. gp130-Fc•IL-6Rα-Fc (GF6F) binds protein A via its Fc-domains, whereas gp130-C$_H$1•IL-6Rα-κ (G16K) does not bind to protein A. (B) Anti-kappa western blotting of proteins precipitated with Protein A-Sepharose from mixtures of GF6F ± IL-6, G16K ± IL-6, or GF6F plus G16K ± IL-6, as marked.

FIGURE 20: Inhibition of IL-6-dependent XG-1 cell proliferation. XG-1 cells [Zhang, et al., Blood 83:3654-3663 (1994)] were prepared for a proliferation assay by starving the cells from IL-6 for 5 hours. Assays were set up in 96-well tissue culture dishes in RPMI + 10% fetal calf serum + penicillin/streptomycin + 0.050 nM 2-mercaptoethanol + glutamine. 0.1 ml of that media was used per well. Cells were suspended at a density of 250,000 per ml at the start of the assay. 72 hours post addition of IL-6 ± ligands traps or antibodies, an MTT assay was performed as described (Panayotatos et al. Biochemistry 33:5813-5818 (1994). The different ligand traps utilized are listed.

FIGURES 21A-21D: Nucleotide sequence encoding and deduced amino acid sequence of fusion polypeptide designated 424 which is capable of binding the cytokine IL-4 to form a nonfunctional complex.

FIGURES 22A-22D: Nucleotide sequence encoding and deduced amino acid sequence of fusion polypeptide designated 603 which is capable of binding the cytokine IL-4 to form a nonfunctional complex.

FIGURES 23A-23D: Nucleotide sequence encoding and deduced amino acid sequence of fusion polypeptide designated 622 which is capable of binding the cytokine IL-4 to form a nonfunctional complex.

FIGURE 24A-24F: Nucleotide sequence encoding and deduced amino acid sequence of fusion polypeptide designated 412 which is capable of binding the cytokine IL-6 to form a nonfunctional complex.

FIGURE 25A-25F: Nucleotide sequence encoding and deduced amino acid sequence of fusion polypeptide designated 616 which is capable of binding the cytokine IL-6 to form a nonfunctional complex.

FIGURE 26A-26E: Nucleotide sequence encoding and deduced amino acid sequence of fusion polypeptide designated 569 which is capable of binding the cytokine IL-1 to form a nonfunctional complex.

FIGURE 27: Shows that an IL-4 trap designated 4SC375, which is a fusion polypeptide of IL-2Rγ-scb-IL4Rα-FcΔC1, is several orders of magnitude better as an IL-4 antagonist than IL4RαFcΔC1 alone in the TF1 cell bioassay.

FIGURE 28: Shows that an IL-4 trap designated 4SC375 displays antagonistic activity in the TF1 cell bioassay equivalent to an IL-4 trap designated 4SC424 (described in Figs. 21A-21D) which is a fusion

polypeptide of IL-2Rγ-IL4Rα-FcΔC1 having the IL-2Rγ component flush with the IL-4Rα component.

FIGURE 29: Shows that the IL6 trap (6SC412 IL6R-scb-gpx-FcΔC1) described in Figs. 24A-24F is a better antagonist of IL-6 in the XG1 bioassay than the neutralizing monoclonal antibody to human IL-6 - BE8.

FIGURE 30: Shows that the trap 1SC569 (described in Figs. 26A-26E) is able to antagonize the effects of IL-1 and block the IL-6 production from MRC 5 cells upon treatment with IL-1.

FIGURE 31A-31G: The nucleotide and encoded amino acid sequence of the IL-4Rα.IL-13Rα1.Fc single chain trap construct is set forth.

FIGURE 32A-32G: The nucleotide and encoded amino acid sequence of the IL-13Rα1.IL-4Rα.Fc single chain trap construct is set forth.

FIGURE 33: Blocking of IL-13 by IL-4Rα.IL-13Rα1.Fc and IL-13Rα1.IL-4Rα.Fc. Addition of either IL-4Rα.IL-13Rα1.Fc or IL-13Rα1.IL-4Rα.Fc trap at a concentration of 10nM blocks IL-13-induced growth up to ~2nM. At an IL-13 concentration of ~4-5 nM the growth of TF1 cells is inhibited by 50%.

FIGURE 34: Blocking of IL-4 by IL-4Rα.IL-13Rα1.Fc and IL-13Rα1.IL-4Rα.Fc. Addition of either IL-4Rα.IL-13Rα1.Fc or IL-13Rα1.IL-4Rα.Fc at a concentration of 10nM blocks IL-4-induced growth up to ~1nM. At an IL-4 concentration of ~3-4 nM the growth of TF1 cells is inhibited by 50%.

FIGURE 35: Human IL-1 trap blocks the in vivo effects of exogenously administered huIL-1. BALB/c mice were given subcutaneous injection of huIL-1 (0.3 μg/kg) at time 0. Twenty-four hours prior to huIL-1 injection, the animals were pre-treated with either vehicle or 150-fold molar excess

EXAMPLE 3. METHODS OF PRODUCING CYTOKINE LIGAND TRAPS

Virus Stock Production

SF21 insect cells obtained from *Spodoptera frugiperda* were grown at 27°C in Gibco SF900 II medium to a density of $1x10^6$ cells/mL. The individual virus stock for either GP130-Fc-His_6 (Figure 4) or IL6Ra-Fc (Figure 5) was added to the bioreactor to a low multiplicity 0.01-0.1 PFU/cell to begin the infection. The infection process was allowed to continue for 5-7 days allowing maximum virus replication without incurring substantial cell lysis. The cell suspension was aseptically aliquoted into sterile centrifuge bottles and the cells removed by centrifugation. The cell-free supernatant was collected in sterile bottles and stored at 4°C until further use.

The virus titer was determined by plaque assay as described by O'Reilly, Miller and Luckow. The method is carried out in 60mm tissue-culture dishes which are seeded with $2x10^6$ cells. Serial dilutions of the virus stock are added to the attached cells and the mixture incubated with rocking to allow the virus to adsorb to individual cells. An agar overlay is added and plates incubated for 5 - 7 days at 27°C. Staining of viable cells with neutral red revealed circular plaques resulting which were counted to give the virus titer.

Coinfection of Cells for Protein Production

Uninfected SF21 Cells were grown in a 60L ABEC bioreactor containing 40L of SF900 II medium. Temperature was controlled at 27°C and the dissolved oxygen level was maintained at 50% of saturation by controlling the flowrate of oxygen in the inlet gas stream. When a density of $2x10^6$ cells/mL was reached, the cells were concentrated within the bioreactor to a volume of 20L using a low shear steam sterilizable pump with a tangential flow filtration device with Millipore Prostak 0.65 micron

All the soluble receptor-Ig chimeric genes may be engineered in plasmid vectors including, but not limited to, vectors suitable for mammalian expression (COS monkey kidney cells, Chinese Hamster Ovary cells [CHO], and ras-transformed fibroblasts [MG-ras]) and include a Kozak sequence (CGC CGC CAC CAT GGT G) at the beginning of each chimeric gene for efficient translation. Engineering was performed using standard genetic engineering methodology. Each construct was verified by DNA sequencing, mammalian expression followed by western blotting with suitable antibodies, biophysical assays that determine ligand binding and dissociation, and by growth inhibition assays (XG-1, as described later). Since the domains utilized to engineer these chimeric proteins are flanked by appropriate restriction sites, it is possible to use these domains to engineer other chimeric proteins, including chimeras employing the extracellular domains of the receptors for factors such as IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, GM-CSF, LIF, IL-11, IL-15, IFNγ, TGFβ, and others. The amino acid coordinates for each component utilized in making the IL-6 traps are listed below (Note: numbering starts with the initiating methionine as #1; long sequences are listed using the single letter code for the twenty amino acids):

(a) Constructs employing human gp130:

(i) **gp130-Cγ1** was engineered by fusing in frame the extracellular domain of gp130 (amino acids 1 to 619) to a Ser-Gly bridge, followed by the 330 amino acids which comprise Cγ1 and a termination codon (Figure 9).

(ii) **gp130-J-Cγ1** was engineered in the same manner as gp130-Cγ1 except that a J-peptide (amino acid sequence: GQGTLVTVSS) was inserted between the Ser-Gly bridge and the sequence of Cγ1 (see Figure 9).

(iii) **gp130Δ3fibro-Cγ1** was engineered by fusing in frame the extracellular domain of gp130 without its three fibronectin-like domains (Figure 10). The remaining part of this chimeric protein is identical to gp130-Cγ1.

(iv) **gp130-J-C_H1** was engineered in a manner identical for that described for gp130-Cγ1, except that in place of the Cγ1 region only the C_H1 part of Cγ1 has been used (Figure 11). The C-terminal domain of this construct includes the part of the hinge that contains the cysteine residue responsible for heterodimerization of the heavy chain of IgG with a light chain. The part of the hinge that contains the two cysteines involved in Cγ1 homodimerization has been deleted along with the C_H2 and C_H3 domains.

(v) **gp130-Cγ4** was engineered in a manner identical to that described for gp130-Cγ1, except that Cγ4 was used in place of Cγ1 (Figure 12). In addition, an *Rsr*II DNA restriction site was engineered at the hinge region of the Cγ4 domain by introducing two silent base mutations. The *Rsrs*II site allows for other desired genetic engineering manipulations, such as the construction of the C_H1 equivalent of gp130-Cγ4.

(vi) **gp130-κ** was engineered in a manner identical to that described for gp130-Cγ1, except that the constant region of the κ light chain of human Ig was used in place of Cγ1 (Figure 13).

(vi) **gp130-J-κ** was engineered in a manner identical to that described for gp130-J-κ, except that a j-peptide (amino acid sequence: TFGQGTKVEIK) was inserted between the Ser-Gly bridge and the κ-region.

(viii) **gp130-λ** was engineered in a manner identical to that described for gp130-Cγ1, except that the constant region of the λ light chain (Cheung, et al., Journal of Virology 66:6714-6720 (1992) of human Ig was used in place of Cγ1 (Figure 14).

(b) Constructs employing human IL-6Rα:

(i) **IL6Rα-Cγ1** was engineered by fusing in frame amino acids 1 to 358 of IL-6Rα (Yamasaki et al., Science 241:825-828 (1988), which comprise the

extracellular domain of IL-6Rα (Figure 15), to an Ala-Gly bridge, followed by the 330 amino acids which comprise Cγ1 and a termination codon.

(ii) **IL6Rα-κ** was engineered as described for IL6Rα-Cγ1, except that the κ-domain (Figure 13) utilized for gp130-κ was used in place of Cγ1.

(iii) **IL6Rα-j-κ** was engineered as described for IL6Rα-κ except that the j-peptide described for gp130-j-κ was placed between the Ala-Gly bridge and the κ-domain.

(iv) Three additional constructs, **IL6Rα313-Cγ1**, **IL6Rα313-κ**, and **IL6Rα313-j-κ**, were engineered as using a truncated form of IL-6Rα comprised of amino acids 1 to 313 (Figure 16). Each of these constructs were made by fusing in frame IL6Rα313 with a Thr-Gly bridge followed by the Cγ1, κ-, and j-κ-domains described above. These constructs were engineered in order to complement the gp130Δ3fibro-derived constructs.

Expression and purification of ligand traps

To produce covalently linked heterodimers of soluble gp130 and soluble IL-6Rα, gp130-Ig chimeric proteins were co-expressed with appropriate IL-6Rα-Ig chimeric proteins in complementing pairs. Co-expression was achieved by co-transfecting the corresponding expression vectors into suitable mammalian cell lines, either stably or transiently. The resulting disulfide-linked heterodimers were purified from conditioned media by several different methods, including but not limited to affinity chromatography on immobilized Protein A or Protein G, ligand-based affinity chromatography, ion exchange, and gel filtration.

An example of the type of methods used for purification of a heavy/light receptor fusion protein is as follows: gp130-Cγ1•IL-6Rα-κ was expressed in COS cells by co-transfecting two different vectors, encoding gp130-Cγ1 and

trap. In contrast, less than 5% of the counts remained associated with the antibody after three days. This result demonstrates that the dissociation rate of the ligand from these ligand traps is very slow.

In a different set of experiments the ability of the ligand traps to multimerize in the presence of ligand was tested. An example of this is shown in Figure 19. IL-6-induced association of gp130-Fc•IL-6Rα-Fc with gp130-C_H1•IL-6Rα-κ was determined by testing whether gp130-C_H1•IL-6Rα-κ, which does not by itself bind Protein A, could be precipitated by Protein A-Sepharose in the presence of gp130-Fc•IL-6Rα-Fc in an IL-6-depended manner (Figure 9). Precipitation of gp130-C_H1•IL-6Rα-κ by Protein A-Sepharose was determined by western blotting with an anti-kappa specific HRP conjugate, which does not detect gp130-Fc•IL-6Rα-Fc. gp130-C_H1•IL-6Rα-κ could be precipitated by Protein A-Sepharose only when both gp130-Fc•IL-6Rα-Fc and IL-6 were present. This result conclusively indicates that IL-6 can induce ligand trap multimerization, and further indicate that the ligand trap can mimic the hexameric cytokine•Rα•signal transducer complex (Figure 1). Ligand-induced multimerization may play a significant role in the clearance of cytokine•ligand trap complexes *in vivo*.

The biological activity of the different ligand traps may be further tested in assays which measure ligand-depended cell proliferation. Several cell proliferation assays exist for IL-6 and they employ cell lines such as B9, CESS, or XG-1. An example of this type of assay using the XG-1 cell line is presented below: XG-1 is a cell line derived from a human multiple myeloma (Zhang, et al., Blood 83:3654-3663 (1994). XG-1 depends on exogenously supplied human IL-6 for survival and proliferation. The EC_{50} of IL-6 for the XG-1 line is approximately 50 pmoles/ml. The ability of several different IL-6 traps to block IL-6-depended proliferation of XG-1

to the amino acids 1-331) from the Genbank sequence, X52425, were cloned. For gp130, nucleotides 322 through 2112 (corresponding to the amino acids 30-619) from the Genbank sequence, M57230, were cloned. For the IL-1RAcP, nucleotides 1 through 1074 (corresponding to the amino acids 1-358) from the Genbank sequence, AB006357, were cloned. For the IL-1RI, nucleotides 55 through 999 (corresponding to the amino acids 19-333) from the Genbank sequence, X16896, were cloned.

EXAMPLE 6 - PRODUCTION OF FUSION POLYPEPTIDES (CYTOKINE TRAPS)

The nucleotide sequences encoding the cytokine traps were constructed from the individual cloned DNAs (described *supra*) by standard cloning and PCR techniques. In each case, the sequences were constructed in frame such that the sequence encoding the first fusion polypeptide component was fused to the sequence encoding the second fusion polypeptide component followed by an Fc domain (hinge, CH2 and CH3 region of human IgG1) as the multimerizing component. In some cases extra nucleotides were inserted in frame between sequences encoding the first and second fusion polypeptide components to add a linker region between the two components (See Figure 21A - Figure 21D - trap 424; Figure 24A - Figure 24F - trap 412; and Figure 26A - Figure 26E - trap 569).

For the IL-4 traps, 424 (Figure 21A - Figure 21D), 603 (Figure 22A - Figure 22D) and 622 (Figure 23A - Figure 23D), the IL-2Rγ component is 5', followed by the IL4Rα component and then the Fc component. For the IL-6 traps, 412 (Figure 24A - Figure 24F) and 616 (Figure 25A - Figure 25F), the IL-6Rα component is 5' followed by the gp130 component and then the Fc domain. For the IL-1 trap 569 (Figure 26A - Figure 26E), the IL-1RAcP component is 5' followed by the IL-1RI component and then the Fc domain. The final constructs were cloned into the mammalian expression vector pCDNA3.1 (STRATAGENE).

In the 569 sequence (Figure 26A - Figure 26E), nucleotides 1-1074 encode the IL1RAcP component, nucleotides 1075 -1098 encode a linker region, nucleotides 1099-2043 encode the IL1RI component and nucleotides 2044-2730 encode the Fc domain.

In the 412 sequence (Figure 24A - Figure 24F), nucleotides 1-993 encode the IL6Rα component, nucleotides 994-1023 encode a linker region, nucleotides 1024-2814 encode the gp130 component and nucleotides 2815-3504 encode the Fc domain.

In the 616 sequence (Figure 25A - Figure 25F), nucleotides 1-993 encode the IL6Rα component, nucleotides 994-2784 encode the gp130 component and nucleotides 2785-3474 encode the Fc domain.

In the 424 (Figure 21A - Figure 21D) and 622 (Figure 23A - Figure 23D) sequences, nucleotides 1-762 encode the IL2Rγ component, nucleotides 763-771 encode a linker region, nucleotides 772-1395 encode the IL4Rα component and nucleotides 1396-2082 encode the Fc domain.

Finally, in the 603 sequence (Figure 22A - Figure 22D), nucleotides 1-762 encode the IL2Rγ component, nucleotides 763-1386 encode the IL4Rα component and nucleotides 1387-2073 encode the Fc domain.

DNA constructs were either transiently transfected into COS cells or stably transfected into CHO cells by standard techniques well known to one of skill in the art. Supernatants were collected and purified by Protein A affinity chromatography and size exclusion chromatography by standard techniques. (See for example Harlow and Lane, Antibodies - A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988).

9. Incubate the plate at 37°C for 4 hours in a humidified 5% CO_2 incubator.

10. After 4 hours, add 100µl of the solubilization solution to each well. Allow the plate to stand overnight in a sealed container to completely solubilize the formazan crystals.

11. Record the absorbance at 570/650nm.

RESULTS

Figure 29 shows that the IL6 trap (6SC412 IL6R-scb-gpx-FcΔC1) described in Figure 24A - Figure 24F is a better antagonist of IL-6 in the XG1 bioassay than the neutralizing monoclonal antibody to human IL-6 - BE8.

EXAMPLE 9: MRC5 BIOASSAY FOR IL1 TRAPS

MRC5 human lung fibroblast cells respond to IL-1 by secreting IL-6 and thus were utilized to assay the ability of IL-1 traps to block the IL-1-dependent production of IL-6. IL1 Trap 1SC569 (Figure 26A - Figure 26E) was tested against IL-1-RI.Fc which is the extracellular domain of the IL-1 Type I receptor fused to an Fc domain.

MRC5 cells are suspended at 1 x 10^5 cells per ml in medium and 0.1 ml of cells are plated (10,000 cells per well) into the wells of a 96 well tissue culture plate. Plates are incubated for 24 hours at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO_2 incubator.

IL-1 trap and recombinant human IL-1 at varying doses are pre-incubated in a 96 well tissue culture dish and incubated for 2 hours at 37°C. 0.1 ml of this mixture is then added to the 96 well plate containing the MRC5 cells such that the final concentration of IL-1 Trap is 10nM and the final

concentrations of the IL-1 ranges from 2.4 pM to 5nM. Control wells contain trap alone or nothing.

Plates are then incubated at 37°C for 24 hours in a humidified 5% CO_2 incubator. Supernatant is collected and assayed for levels of IL-6 using R&D Systems Quantikine Immunoassay Kit according to the manufacturer's instructions.

RESULTS

Figure 30 shows that the trap 569 (Figure 26A - Figure 26E) is able to antagonize the effects of IL-1 and block the IL-6 production from MRC 5 cells upon treatment with IL-1. At a concentration of 10nM, the trap 569 is able to block the production of IL-6 up to an IL-1 concentration of 3nM. In contrast, the IL-1RI.Fc is a much poorer antagonist of IL-1. It is only able to block the effects of IL-1 up to about 10-20 pM. Thus, the trap 569 is approximately 100x better at blocking IL-1 than IL1RI.Fc.

EXAMPLE 10 - CONSTRUCTION OF IL-13/IL-4 SINGLE CHAIN TRAPS

1. To create the IL-13/IL-4 dual trap designated IL-4Rα.IL-13Rα1.Fc, the human IL-4Rα extracellular domain (corresponding to nucleotides #1-693 of Figure 31A - Figure 31G) and the human IL-13Rα1 extracellular domain (corresponding to nucleotides #700-1665 of Figure 31A - Figure 31G) were amplified by standard PCR techniques and ligated into an expression vector pMT21 which contained the human Fc sequence (corresponding to nucleotides #1671-2355 of Figure 31A - Figure 31G), thus creating a fusion protein consisting of the IL-4Rα , IL-13Rα1, and the hinge, CH2 and CH3 region of human IgG1 from the N to C terminus. In addition, a two amino acid linker (corresponding to nucleotides #694-699 of Figure 31A - Figure 31G) with the amino acid sequence SerGly was constructed in frame

between the IL-4Rα and the IL-13Rα1 and a two amino acid linker (corresponding to nucleotides #1666-1671 of Figure 31A - Figure 31G) with the amino acid sequence ThrGly was constructed in frame between the IL-13Rα1 and the Fc portion. All sequences were sequence-verified by standard techniques. The IL-4Rα.IL-13Rα1.Fc coding sequence was then subcloned into the expression vector pCDNA3.1 (Stratagene) using standard molecular biology techniques.

2. To create the IL-13/IL-4 dual trap designated IL-13Rα1.IL-4Rα.Fc, the IL-13Rα1 extracellular domain (corresponding to nucleotides #1-1029 of Figure 32A - Figure 32G) and the human IL-4Rα (corresponding to nucleotides # 1060-1692 of Figure 32A - Figure 32G) were amplified by standard PCR techniques and ligated into the expression vector pJFE14, which contains the human Fc sequence (corresponding to nucleotides #1699-2382 of Figure 32A - Figure 32G) to create a fusion protein consisting of the IL-13Rα1, IL-4Rα, and the hinge, CH2 and CH3 region of human IgG1 from the N to C terminus. In addition, a ten amino acid linker with the amino acid sequence GlyAlaProSerGlyGlyGlyGlyArgPro (corresponding to nucleotide #1030-1059 of Figure 32A - Figure 32G) was constructed in frame between the IL-13Rα1 and the IL-4Rα and a two amino acid linker (corresponding to nucleotides #1693-1698 of Figure 32A - Figure 32G) with the amino acid sequence SerGly was constructed in frame between IL-4Rα and the Fc portion. All sequences were sequence-verified using standard techniques. The coding sequence of IL-13Rα1.IL-4Rα.Fc was then subcloned into the expression vector pCDNA3.1 (Stratagene) using standard molecular biology techniques.

EXAMPLE 11: EXPRESSION OF IL-4Rα.IL-13Rα1.Fc AND IL-13Rα1.IL-4Rα.Fc